In the footsteps of Nelson Mandela

"After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended." -- Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela is revered the world over as a great statesman and is cherished for working towards making a better life for all living in South Africa. This tour incorporates South Africa’s most spectacular scenery, wild life and provides an opportunity for you to walk in the footsteps of Mandela by visiting places that helped make him what today is regarded as a world icon.
Mandela Rhodes Place is a unique concept of modern city living, with a subtle blend of old and new in the magnificent surrounds of Cape Town’s ‘Old Town’. A choice of luxury accommodation and a wealth of leisure and retail shopping, surrounded by pedestrian streets provide you with an old world ambience and a modern sophistication... Mandela Rhodes Place offers the definitive city lifestyle with a choice of luxurious apartments, a host of leisure options and a wealth of retail facilities in the heart of metropolitan Cape Town.

1 & 2 Bedroom accommodation:
Ultra-modern city living. Hi-tech and contemporary. A landmark destination at the heart of 'The Old Town'. The Tower accommodates 21 two bedroom apartments. The Tower is a symphony of reinforced concrete, glass and steel fins, offering breathtaking views of the city. Each of the six layouts over the 8 floors offers different, yet equally breathtaking views.

Dining: SYNERGY ON 7 at Mandela Rhodes Place presents itself as a new space for lunch & dinner to escape into a theatre of dining. Here the menu is a classic-meets-modern affair with fresh new flavours and an emphasis on colour.

Shopping: In the beginning there was only one product, the ever popular Eau de Linge and a dream to produce a range of home, body and bath products that would set new standards of excellence. Through dedication to manufacturing only the finest quality products in clean lined, elegant packaging, the dream became reality and now four distinctive and exclusive ranges are produced.
The tour includes the following:

**Robben Island**

Although the purpose and use of Robben Island changed a number of times over the last century - from leprosy colony to ordinary prison to defense fortification during the world wars - it more recently gained international notoriety as a prison for contemporary political figures. One of the most famous prisoners of Robben Island is of course Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first democratically elected President.

In 1999, Robben Island - where tours are given by former political prisoners - was added to UNESCO's World Heritage List. Several times a day, ferries depart from the Robben Island Exhibition and Information Centre, situated next door to the Clock Tower building. This granite building houses a museum, depicting the history of Robben Island and the political struggle against oppression and for freedom and democracy. Here one can purchase lithographs of original Nelson Mandela paintings.

A trip to Robben Island takes about three hours, and takes visitors to the prison and on an island tour with viewing of for instance the limestone quarry, Garrison Church (1841), lighthouse (1863), the guesthouse (1895) and a Kramat or Muslim shrine.

**Madiba’s “House”**

The "Madiba House" at the Drakenstein (Victor Verster) Prison was the place where Nelson Mandela was incarcerated before he was released. It will be developed as a National Heritage Site, to preserve this part of South Africa’s heritage. Nowadays it has become a place of reflection and contemplation.

Mr Mandela appeared at the gates of Victor-Verster Prison in Paarl at 1614 local time - an hour late - with his wife Winnie.

The Town Hall – Cape Town:

11 February 1990

Here he gave his famous speech to the people of South Africa!
**Groote Schuur Presidential Home**

Groote Schuur (Afrikaans for “big barn”) is an estate in Cape Town, South Africa; the former home of Cecil Rhodes and now the official Cape residence of the President of South Africa. The Cape Dutch building, located in Rondebosch, on the slopes of Devil’s Peak, was originally part of the Dutch East India Company’s granary. Rhodes bought it in 1893 and had it converted and refurbished by the architect Herbert Baker.
With an enviable location in the heart of Sandton's business district and just a short distance from some of the continent's best shopping and golf, this Johannesburg hotel is the perfect base for both business and leisure travelers. Nelson Mandela Square lies in close proximity of the hotel as well as the impressive Sandton City which offers the Southern hemisphere’s best shopping with luxury retail stores.

**Accommodation**
Rooms successfully integrate subtle touches and a warm palette of colours to create an innovative lifestyle experience with 290 beautifully-appointed guest rooms, free high-speed Internet and Anne Sémonin bath products.

**Dining**
*Vivace Restaurant:* Serves a contemporary Italian menu including an exciting cocktails
*Bar & Lounge:* Award winning wine lists, cocktails, refreshments and coffees

**Wellness & Fitness:** The hotel’s pool deck and panoramic rooftop terrace is located on the 9th floor and the ideal place to relax and enjoy a light snack or cocktail. Adjacent is a Planet Fitness Platinum Gym and Wellness Spa offering guests a world class energizing workout in a state-of-the-art gym or relaxation in a 500sq meter health and beauty spa.
Soweto tour:
Hector Pieterson museum, Nelson Mandela's former home, Freedom Square and the Apartheid museum

Hector Pieterson, 12, was one of the first casualties of the Soweto uprising of 16 June, 1976 – home of Nelson Mandela. Today he is a symbol of resistance and the triumph over oppression. Guests will not see snapshots of Hector but what they will see is one of Sam Nzima’s six photographs showing the unconscious Hector being carried by fellow student Mbuyisa Makhubo, with Hector’s sister, Antoinette Sithole, running alongside. When they visit the museum they will get to see Antoinette herself, as she gives guided tours at the museum.

As guests walk through the dusty streets of Soweto, they will have the opportunity to experience the vibrancy of modern day township life. Visit the home of former President Nelson Mandela in Orlando West, a four-room house in Soweto where he lived during the late 1950’s and early 1960’s and again immediately after his release from prison in 1990. The morning ends with a typical lunch in the township where one of the local homes has been turned into a restaurant.

Visit "Freedom Square", referring to the square in Kliptown (although one also existed in Sophiatown) where the Freedom Charter, subsequently adopted by the African National Congress (ANC) was drawn up at a mass gathering in 1955.

After a few hours at the Apartheid Museum guests will feel that they were in the townships in the 70s and 80s, escaping police bullets or teargas canisters, or marching and toy-toying (protesting) with thousands of school children, or carrying the body of a comrade into a nearby house. Just when they feel they can't tolerate the
bombardment of their senses any longer, they reach a quiet space, with a glass case which contains a book of the new Constitution of South Africa.

Union buildings, Pretoria
For many South Africans the Union Building is the most beautiful government residence in the world. Sir Herbert Baker was the architect of this 275 m long building and had it built in the English monumental style from light sandstone. It does indeed look majestic and lends a solemn environment to the official acts of the respective President. The Union Building has a half-round shape - the two wings at the sides represent the Boerish and the English part of the population. The Union Buildings form the official seat of the South African government and also house the offices of the President of South Africa.

Since the first free and common elections in South Africa in 1994 the Union Building has been the residence of the presidency and his government. Parliament spends the winter months in Pretoria, during the summer months it changes to Cape Town. The imposing buildings sit on Meintjeskop, overlook Pretoria and is a South African National monument.